strategic alliance with BSNL and another operator having dedicated lines to Middle East and USA. However, the project was shelved as the business was not found feasible in the new market conditions. Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL), another Telecom PSU, does not have plans to enter ILD business.

Mobile services in Gujarat

3041. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N. P. DUHGA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Gujarat where mobile service is available as on date;

(b) the number of districts in the State where this service has not yet been started; and

(c) by when this service is likely to be provided in the Taluka Bariya District Dahod of the State during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the following companies are licensed to provide and have commissioned Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Gujarat Telecom Circle Service Area:—

1. M/s Fascel Ltd.
2. M/s IDEA Cellular Ltd.
3. M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
4. M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd.

As intimated by these companies, apart from other cities and towns, CMTS is being provided in all the District Headquarters of Gujarat by one or more of the above mentioned operators.

(c) As per the terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS, in the Telecom Circle Service Areas, an operator is required to cover 10% of the District Headquarters within one year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover

any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the Service Area.

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has plans to cover the Bariya Taluka of Dahod District during the current financial year.

Mobile services in U.P.

3042. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL's mobile service is available in all districts of U.P. in general and Sultanpur in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its range in kms. in Sultanpur;

(c) the number of SIM cards provided by Government to Sultanpur and how many cards were issued to customers;

(d) whether Government are aware that SIM cards are given to VIPs/ influential persons while general people are not being provided;

(e) whether Government would intervene in the matter and instruct the authorities to give SIM cards to applicants on first time first serve basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL's Cellular Mobile Service is available in all the Districts of U.P. including Sultanpur.

(b) Cellular Mobile Service has been planned covering the city limits of the district.

(c) Out of 5750 SIM cards allotted to Sultanpur, 5150 SIM cards have been issued to customers.

(d) and (e) No such case has come to the notice of the Department so far, as SIM cards are being given on first come and first serve basis.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above.